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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,639	06/10/2005	Gunter Hoelzemann	MERCK-3020	5419
23599	7590	02/08/2008	EXAMINER	
MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.			YOUNG, SHAWQUIA	
2200 CLARENDON BLVD.				
SUITE 1400			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ARLINGTON, VA 22201			1626	
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		02/08/2008		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/538,639	HOELZEMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner Shawquia Young	Art Unit 1626	

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3,6,7 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-3,6 and 7 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 15 are currently pending in the instant application.

I. *Response to Arguments*

Applicants' amendments, filed on November 21, 2007, have overcome the following rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph has been withdrawn.

II. *Rejection(s)*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

As stated in the MPEP 2164.01 (a), "There are many factors to be considered when determining whether there is sufficient evidence to support a determination that a

disclosure does not satisfy the enablement requirement and whether any necessary experimentation is "undue".

In In re Wands, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (1988), factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, have need described. They are:

1. the nature of the invention,
2. the state of the prior art,
3. the predictability or lack thereof in the art,
4. the amount of direction or guidance present,
5. the presence or absence of working examples,
6. the breadth of the claims,
7. the quantity of experimentation needed, and
8. the level of the skill in the art.

In the instant case,

The nature of the invention

The nature of the invention of claim 15 is a method for the treatment of cerebral stroke, cerebral ischaemia, overexcitation, hyperactivity, attention disorder, deep-seated development disorder, mental retardation, depression, compulsive disorder, sleep disorders, sexual disorders, eating disorders, senile dementia or Alzheimer's dementia comprising administering to a host in need thereof a compound according to claim 1 or a salt, solvate, enantiomer or mixture thereof.

The state of the prior art and the predictability or lack thereof in the art

The state of the prior art is that the pharmacological art involves screening *in vitro* and *in vivo* to determine which compounds exhibit the desired pharmacological activities (i.e. what compounds can treat which specific disease by what mechanism). There is no absolute predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face.

The instant claimed invention is highly unpredictable as discussed below:

It is noted that the pharmaceutical art is unpredictable, requiring each embodiment to be individually assessed for physiological activity. *In re Fisher*, 427 F. 2d 833, 166 USPQ 18 (CCPA 1970) indicates that the more unpredictable an area is the more specific enablement is necessary in order to satisfy the statute.

Applicants are claiming method of treating cerebral stroke, cerebral ischaemia, overexcitation, hyperactivity, attention disorder, deep-seated development disorder, mental retardation, depression, compulsive disorder, sleep disorders, sexual disorders, eating disorders, senile dementia or Alzheimer's dementia.

Applicants' claims are drawn to a method of treating stroke. Stroke represents one of the most intractable medical challenges. Stroke is estimated to cause about 15% of deaths. Even those who survive normally suffer from persistent damage, including motor and speech disturbances and/or convulsions. Despite a tremendous effort to resolve these problems, cerebrovascular therapy as so far been limited to trying to prevent further damage in areas on the margins of the ischemic focus, thus trying to

maintain adequate perfusion in remaining intact areas, and thereby limit progressive infarction. This is generally done surgically. Standard pharmaceutical treatment, such as antiarrhythmics and antithrombotics don't get at the cause of the stroke or the damage caused, but are mostly done to insure adequate cardiac functioning.

Applicants' claims are also drawn to a method for treating dementia. Dementia is the progressive decline in cognitive function due to damage or disease in the brain beyond what might be expected from normal aging. Symptoms of dementia can be classified as either reversible or irreversible depending upon the etiology of the disease. Dementia can be caused by various types of conditions or diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, Binswanger's disease, Pick's disease, Parkinson's disease, etc. It is known (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dementia>) that less than 5% of a sample of dementia cases have a potentially treatable cause that include hypothyroidism, vitamin B1 deficiency, depressive pseudodementia, etc. Except for the treatable types of dementia, there is no cure to the illness. There is no absolute predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face.

The amount of direction present and the presence or absence of working examples

The only direction or guidance present in the instant specification is the listing of several diseases applicant considers as treatable by the claimed invention found on

pages 4 and 11. There are no working examples present for the treatment of any disease or disorders with the claimed compounds.

The breadth of the claims

The breadth of the claims is drawn to a method for the treatment of cerebral stroke, cerebral ischaemia, overexcitation, hyperactivity, attention disorder, deep-seated development disorder, mental retardation, depression, compulsive disorder, sleep disorders, sexual disorders, eating disorders, senile dementia or Alzheimer's dementia comprising administering to a host in need thereof a compound according to claim 1 or a salt, solvate, enantiomer or mixture thereof.

The quantity of experimentation needed

The quantity of experimentation needed is undue experimentation. One of skill in the art would need to determine what diseases out of all conditions such as cerebral stroke, cerebral ischaemia, sleep disorders, sexual disorders, etc. would be benefited by mediating 5-HT receptors would furthermore then have to determine which of the claimed compounds in the instant invention would provide treatment of the diseases.

The level of the skill in the art

The level of skill in the art is high. However, due to the unpredictability in the pharmaceutical art, it is noted that each embodiment of the invention is required to be individually assessed for physiological activity by *in vitro* or *in vivo* screening to

determine which compounds exhibit the desired pharmacological activity and which diseases would benefit from this activity.

The specification fails to provide sufficient support of the broad use of the claimed compounds of the invention in a method of treating cerebral stroke, cerebral ischaemia, overexcitation, hyperactivity, attention disorder, deep-seated development disorder, mental retardation, depression, compulsive disorder, sleep disorders, sexual disorders, eating disorders, senile dementia or Alzheimer's dementia. As a result necessitating one of skill to perform an exhaustive search for which diseases can be treated by what compounds of the invention in order to practice the claimed invention.

Genentech Inc. v. Novo Nordisk A/S (CA FC) 42 USPQ2d 1001, states that "a patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for search, but compensation for its successful conclusion" and "patent protection is granted in return for an enabling disclosure of an invention, not for vague intimations of general ideas that may or may not be workable".

Therefore, in view of the Wands factors and In re Fisher (CCPA 1970) discussed above, to practice the claimed invention herein, a person of skill in the art would have to engage in undue experimentation to test which diseases can be treated by the compound encompassed in the instant claims, with no assurance of success.

This rejection can be overcome, for example, by deleting the method claims.

III. Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

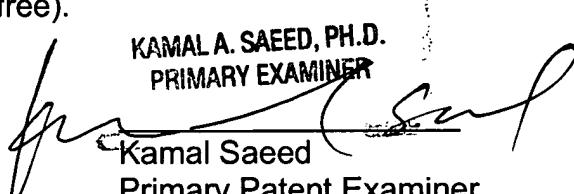
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawquia Young whose telephone number is 571-272-9043. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM-3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane can be reached on 571-272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shawquia Young
Shawquia Young
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1600


KAMAL A. SAEED, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Kamal Saeed
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1600